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## Feature Club

### The Michigan Treasure Hunters (MTH)

The Michigan Treasure Hunters is an organization for those people who enjoy all kinds of treasure hunting: metal detecting coin and jewelry, relic hunting, bottle digging and ghost town searching, to name just a few. A bonus treasure is found in the fellowship with others who are also interested in our hobby - treasure hunting!

In existence since 1974, the club's primary objective is the promotion of treasure hunting, while keeping proper conservation measures in mind, and teaching correct treasure hunting techniques. The club's motto is "We leave it cleaner than we found it."







The purpose of this organization is to increase the popularity of common interests. They hope to add new members and continue to grow and expand. They also want to have fun when together and working on projects. By developing relationships and friendships, the organization will become even stronger.

Their mission is to further promote the interests of their organization and members to the community. They strive to make a difference by educating the public and expanding their reach.

One of the highlights of their activities is an annual Open House exhibit where members display coins, bottles, relics or treasures they have found. Also on display are different makes and models of metal detectors, with club members demonstrating their proper use and care. They also enjoy sharing with the public their particular interest in treasure hunting.

Michigan Treasure Hunters teach the beginning hobbyist how to use detectors and selects locations for club activities that can yield hours of treasure hunting enjoyment. Some of the planned events include a Spring Warm Up Hunt, Mini-hunts, weekend outings, a July Picnic, buried Token Hunts, Fishbowl Hunt, and their Open Fall Hunt held each September.

A regular monthly meeting is held which features a guest speaker, movie or slide presentation, or club member engaging in the sharing of treasure hunting experiences or hints. All activities center around family participation. Hunts may be enjoyed by the very young as well as senior citizens.

Meeting time 7:30 p.m. the 4th Tuesday of the month, February through November, in the Gymnasium at the rear of Faith Lutheran Church - north side of 5 Mile Rd. between Merriman & Middlebelt, 30000 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, Michigan .

**2007 Officers:**

President – Paul Leonard  
Vice President – Tom Klisz  
Secretary – Cheryl Jester  
Treasurer – Larry Prested

**Board of Directors:**

Clarence Herberholz – Chairman

Harry Dayner, Dave Picard, Tom Weaver, Tom Sniezek, and

Vincent Tremain (alternate)

All members and guests are encouraged to partake in the activities at each meeting.

Their newsletter, "The Prober," is mailed each month to members and posted on their web site. A complimentary copy will be sent to guests.

MTH sponsors various hunts throughout the year for MTH members only. They put on a planted hunt every month (excluding winter). The event is usually held rain or shine and is announced in the newsletter. The person who found the "token" (a large round brass disk with MTH on it) from the previous month's hunt has to put on the hunt for the following month. The club provides the silver coins (usually half dollars, quarters, dimes) to be planted. There is a \$2 entry fee for registered club members who are required to sign an entry log. The attendance from the previous hunt usually dictates how much silver will be available, since the money from previous hunts is used to purchase the next hunts silver coins. The huntmaster for the month may add to the pot provided by the club with additional coins and provide prizes at their own discretion/expense. The huntmaster is responsible for choosing a permissible hunt area, staking it out, conducting the hunt, keeping the entry log and fees, and ensuring that all holes are filled and the grounds in good shape at the end of the hunt. The huntmaster then appears at the next monthly club meeting, turns in the log and monies collected, and receives a gold coin (usually a \$2 peso) for his/her efforts. The token hunts can be a lot of fun-especially if huntmasters add to the pot with coins and prizes, and select hunt areas that have additional potential for finds. Attendees often arrive early and stay after the hunt if the park promises some good detecting in addition to the hunt. The coins are usually buried at a depth of 3 inches or less. A knife cut can be made and the coins inserted into the slits. The trick is to make the slits inconspicuous so as not to be a give away to searchers. Some look just for the slit marks and don't even have to swing the coil much. The club also has specially designed "coin planters" that can be borrowed. They allow you to make the slit, lift up the plug a little and roll the coin through a hollow handle down into the hole. You just step on the plug to conceal it, and you are done. No bending over to dig. They won't handle a half dollar though. Two methods of starting the hunt are to line everyone up along the perimeters of the staked out area before calling the start, or to allow everyone into the hunt area where they want to be (with detector coils in the air) and then calling a start. The hunt usually lasts until everything is found within a reasonable amount of time. The huntmaster may announce how many coins are still outstanding

if a running count has been kept and then calls the end to the hunt. Etiquette of course dictates that members not set up lawn chairs to watch the coins being buried or wander around the planted area with live coils before star time.

A Fishbowl is passed at each meeting for members to donate money to be buried in October for the annual Fishbowl Hunt. Everything collected will be buried.

Each month from March to November, members enter their best finds found since the last meeting. They may enter only one item in each of four categories: Coins, Tokens, Jewelry and Relics. You must be a paid up member for at least one month to enter. During the break, everyone, including guests, are invited to vote for the item in each category they feel is the best find. Winners are awarded plaques for 1st place and are eligible to receive the silver Winners Circle award at the January Banquet. Ribbons are awarded to 2nd and 3rd place finishes.

Refreshments are free to all members and guests during the break.

There is a donation canister for those wishing to contribute.

Members and guests alike are welcome to purchase raffle tickets.

The 50/50 tickets are two for \$1. Half the proceeds go to the club; the other half is split into 2 equal prizes for the lucky winners. MTH also has a gold and silver coin raffle. A gold coin, silver dollar and silver half are raffled - tickets are \$1.

The club has hats, T- shirts, coffee mugs, jackets, and sweatshirts etc, all with the MTH logo. MTH also sells copies of old county atlases that are helpful in finding old treasure sites. In order for all members to get to know each other, nametags are sold. Proceeds from the raffles and merchandise sales help to pay club expenses and keep dues low.

The club has an extensive collection of books and magazines relating to treasure hunting that members can enjoy. Some may be checked out while others are for reference only at club meetings. Each month MTH has a membership draw. If your membership number is drawn, and you are present and wearing your nametag, you win a silver half dollar. If you aren't wearing a nametag you receive a silver quarter. Numbers are drawn until a winner is present.

For more information, log onto [www.michigantreasurehunters.com](http://www.michigantreasurehunters.com). You are encouraged to contact the club if you would like more information or are interested in becoming a part of the organization. Michigan Treasure Hunters, P.O. BOX 510237, Livonia, MI, 48151-6237; e-mail [webmaster@michigantreasurehunters.com](mailto:webmaster@michigantreasurehunters.com).